

U.S. Embassy Bahrain
Demonstration Notice 118 – November 21, 2012

Spontaneous demonstrations take place in Bahrain from time to time in response to world events or local developments. United States citizens should keep current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times. If you encounter a large public gathering or demonstration, depart the vicinity immediately.

On Friday, November 23rd and Saturday, November 24th larger than normal crowds are predicted to gather in the Manama center (souq area) after evening prayers. During the evening hours local processions will take place in respective villages. Participants are expected to gather in the Manama center (souq area) around 10:00pm both nights after the local processions. (Yellow circle)

Generally, clashes between protesters and police often result in adverse driving conditions, an increased police presence, and significant travel delays.

Please use caution as you drive and plan for additional time to arrive at your destination. Always keep current with media coverage of local events and be aware of your surroundings. If you encounter a large public gathering or demonstration, depart the vicinity immediately.

While we are aware of the above, it is important to note that spontaneous demonstrations have also been triggered by regional events in the past; however, there have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens in Bahrain. That said, spontaneous and at times violent anti-government demonstrations occur in some neighborhoods, particularly at night and on weekends. These demonstrations have included blockades of major highways with burning debris and establishment of unofficial checkpoints. Participants have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used various other homemade weapons, including isolated use of improvised explosive devices. The Ministry of Interior maintains official checkpoints in some areas and routinely uses tear gas and stun grenades along with birdshot and other crowd control measures against demonstrators. Violent clashes between security forces and demonstrators can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning.

Please see below for a map. Areas shaded in red are off-limits to U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members. Areas shaded in blue are off-limits to U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members 20:00 – 04:00.

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Country Specific Information for Bahrain, Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The [Embassy's web site](http://bahrain.usembassy.gov), <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>, includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

